

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----117324 210353Z /61

R 201310Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7132  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 CAPE TOWN 0782

EXDIS

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI AND RICHARDSON FROM  
THORNTON

PASS USUN FOR COOKS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV, RH, US  
SUBJECT: IMPRESSION OF SALISBURY

1. SUMMARY: THOMAS THORNTON OF NSC STAFF MET WITH SEVERAL  
PEOPLE IN SALISBURY ON APRIL 18 AND RECEIVED A VARIETY OF  
PREDICTABLE VIEWS. SEVERAL IMPORTANT POINTS EMERGED.  
MILITARILY, THE INSURGENCY HAS NOT SLACKENED AND THE  
GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING THE GUERRILLAS  
BACK. INDEED, IT SEEMED AFRAID TO TRY. THE KEY TO THE  
CREDIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT IS DISMANTLING THE PROTECTED  
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VILLAGES AND RELEASING DETAINEES. POLITICALLY, MUZOREWA  
CONTROLS THE CITIES AT LEAST AND THE DESIRE FOR PEACE  
IS PERVASIVE, SO THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT CANNOT  
BE WRITTEN OFF. NEITHER SIDE SEEMS VERY CONFIDENT  
AND THE POLITICAL BASIS FOR COMPROMISE IS PRESENT.  
IF WE ARE TO PLAY AN EFFECTIVE ROLE, WE NEED MUCH BETTER  
INFORMATION. SOME SORT OF PERMANENT PRESENCE SHOULD BE

CONSIDERED. END SUMMARY.

2. DUE TO INAVAILABILITY OF ONWARD FLIGHTS, I SPENT TUESDAY IN SALISBURY AND HAD SEVERAL INTERESTING TALKS. ONE WAS WITH AN ARTICULATE, BLACK PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER WITH A COMMERCIAL FIRM WHO HAS CLEARLY GOT IT MADE AND LOOKS TO THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AS A WAY OF INSURING WHAT HE HAS GOT. HE WAS VERY PERSUASIVE THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF AFRICAN OPINION SUPPORTS THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. HE MADE THE COGENT POINT THAT EVEN URBAN AFRICANS ARE WELL AWARE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE BUSH BECAUSE OF FAMILY TIES"AND BECAUSE AFRICANS RUN THE BUS SERVICE BETWEEN SALISBURY AND THE BUSH."

3. BASED ON HIS SOURCES OF INFORMATION, HE CLAIMED THAT THE GUERRILLAS SAW NO MORE POINT IN FIGHTING AND WERE PREPARED TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS AND RETURN. HE CONCEDED, HOWEVER, THAT TO KEEP ITS CREDIBILITY, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO (1) DISBAND THE "PROTECTED VILLAGES" AND (2) RELEASE DETAINEES. HE SAID THAT THESE PROCESSES WERE BEING STARTED.

4. HE SAID THAT BISHOP MUZOREWA HAS OVERWHELMING POPULAR SUPPORT AND IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT ( BUT DESIRABLE) TO FIND MEANS TO BRING NKOMO INTO THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. ONE POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE AS HEAD OF STATE.

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5. A TRADE UNION LEADER HAD ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT ANDY YOUNG AND AT STONEY COOKS REQUEST, I UNDERTOOK TO MEET HIM. HE TURNED OUT TO BE THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF ROBERT MUGABE. ALTHOUGH HE WAS INTERESTED IN GETTING SUPPORT FOR HIS FLEDGING TRADE UNION FEDERATION, HIS MAIN MESSAGE WAS THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WILL NOT WORK AND THAT THE PF IS DETERMINED TO FIGHT ON. THE PF HAS SUPPORT--ZANU DOMINATES ALL OF THE NORTH; MUZOREWA DARE NOT EVEN GO TO HIS FARM. HE READILY ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT MUZOREWA HAD SOLID SUPPORT AMONG URBAN BLACKS, AND WHEN PRESSED ADMITTED THAT IT MIGHT BE BROADER THAN THAT.

6. ACCORDING TO ALBERT MUGABE, THE DETAINEES AND PROTECTED VILLAGES ARE THE CHALLENGES THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST FACE. IF THE GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO MOVE ON THESE FRONTS, THEN THE PF LEADERS SHOULD BE WILLING TO RETURN TO RHODESIA AND TAKE PART IN THE ELECTION. WHEN I POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD EXPECT A CEASE-FIRE, HE AGREED THAT THIS WAS REASONABLE AND SHOULD BE ARRANGED AT AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE. (COMMENT: DESPITE

THE FAMILY TIE, I SEE NO REASON TO ASUME THAT ALBERT  
MUGABE CAN SPEAK AUTHORITATIVELY FOR HIS BROTHER--  
WITH WHOM, HE SAYS, HE IS NOT IN CLOSE CONTACT).  
NELSON

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----117218 210346Z /62

R 201310Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7133  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
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7. IN ADDITION, I WAS TREATED TO A LENGTHY HARANGUE  
BY A TAXI DRIVER WHO SUPPORTED THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT  
BECAUSE HE WANTS THE FIGHTING TO STOP AND DOESN'T WANT  
THE RUSSIANS AND CUBANS COMING TO RHODESIA. (INTERESTING,  
MAINLY, AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE  
AND SOPHISTICATION OF EVEN POORLY-EDUCATED RHODESIAN  
BLACKS). RATHER MORE EXPERT WERE THE VIEWS OF THE YOUNG  
BRITISH FSO STATIONED IN SALISBURY. THE INSURGENCY IS  
NOT LETTING UP; THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WILL NOT WORK  
AND SMITH MAY NOT WANT IT TO; GUERRILLAS ARE SIMPLY NOT  
RETURNING; AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ISSUED A CALL FOR  
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THE GUERRILLAS TO RETURN BECAUSE IT EXPECTS THAT FEW WOULD COME. (THIS LATTER POINT WAS ALSO PICKED UP BY AN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT).

8. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SORT OUT THIS CONFUSED PICTURE, BUT SEVERAL POINTS DO STAND OUT:

(A) THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE NO HEADWAY IN GETTING THE GUERRILLAS BACK AND THIS WILL BE THE TEST OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.

(B) THE KEYS TO THE GOVERNMENT'S CREDIBILITY ARE THE RELEASE OF DETAINEES AND THE DISBANDING OF THE PROTECTED VILLAGES.

(C) BOTH SIDES HAVE EXTENSIVE ACCESS TO THE GUERRILLAS AND KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON

(D) NEITHER SIDE, HOWEVER, IS VERY CONFIDENT OF ITS FUTURE.

(E) THE DESIRE FOR PEACE IS STRONG AND THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL FEARS OF TRIBAL WARFARE. SOME SEE EUROPEANS AS THE GUARANTORS OF TRIBAL PEACE. THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IS BY NO MEANS A NON-STARTER.

9. THERE ARE CLEARLY THE MAKINGS OF A POLICY IN THIS, AND THE "SAFETY NET" ROLE OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN MAY STILL BE VERY RELEVANT. I AM NOT PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE, IF THE PRESENT STALEMATE HOLDS FOR A WHOLE.

10. IF WE AND THE BRITISH ARE TO PLAY AN EFFECTIVE ROLE,  
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HOWEVER, WE SIMPLY MUST HAVE MORE, BETTER AND MORE TIMELY INFORMATION ON WHAT IS HAPPENING IN RHODESIA IN THE AREAS OF GUERRILLA RETURN, DISMANTLING OF PROTECTED VILLAGES, AND RELEASE OF DETAINEES. THIS ARGUES FOR AN EFFECTIVE, PERMANENT PRESENCE IN SALISBURY.  
NELSON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED WHITE HOUSE.

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## Message Attributes

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